

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was pending. Claim 13 has been amended. No Claim has been cancelled. No Claim has been added, and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al.

The section of the outstanding Office Action entitled “**Response to Arguments**” asserts that the imaginary line connecting the tips of the rails in Kobayashi is right on the center of gravity, not spaced from it on the opposite side from the imaginary line joining the two suspension points. In support of that assertion, the Office Action states that, “due to the thickness of the tips of the guide rails[,] an imaginary line exists that connects the tips of the rails spaced apart from the center [of] gravity on the opposite side from the imaginary line joining the two suspension points, as shown in the figure above [i.e., on page 3 of the Office Action].”

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the relevant point of their Claim 13 is that those two imaginary lines are located on opposite sides of the line connecting the centers of the tips of the guide rails--as clearly shown in their Figure 1. In sharp contrast, the drawing on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action shows an imaginary line connecting the extreme rear edges of the guide rails and passing through an “X” (the position of which is somewhat arbitrarily selected) designating the center of gravity of the elevator. Applicants Claim 13 clearly provides that the center of gravity of the elevator in question must be determined and that the two imaginary lines recited in that claim must be located on opposite sides of that center of gravity. It is respectfully submitted that there is nothing in either the drawings or the specification of Kobayashi suggesting such a relationship.

Application No. 10/586,864
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2009

An early and favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Charles L. Gholz
Registration No. 26,395